

**From:** Richard Becker  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 11:41pm  
**Subject:** Please consider the future....

Dear Sirs:

I've worked in the technology industry for over 10 years, and am president of MATRIX Information Systems Inc. I've seen the rise of Microsoft, and witnessed their business practices and find it amazing that such practices are condoned by the American justice system.

If the proposed settlement is accepted, Microsoft would have gotten away with a mere slap on the wrist (if that), and would essentially have complete authority to continue doing what it has been doing, maybe even going beyond those limits. I see a very tough time for any competition, and likely a rough ride for the open source movement and any technical inovators.

Interesting how Microsoft even now is extending it's monopoly to the 'family room' with the X-Box, and using .NET in an attempt to take over the Internet. I don't have a problem with a company being successfull, but I do have a problem with the business practices of Microsoft, and especially their technology. Their technology is closed, lacks security and lags behind others, but continues to thrive because of lack of choice for the consumer. I guess a marketing campaign of Fear, Uncertainty and Deceit, really does work.

Here is one case where the justice system could make a real difference to the average person, by giving them choice, competition and quality, in other words "breaking up MS". I doubt whether they would have a chance if they had to face real competition, and were not allowed to continue their illegal activities.

I guess this is a test case to see if Microsoft managed to put a little "weight" on the scales of justice in their favour. I'm sure this is likely the case, just too bad we like to talk about freedom, and independance, and justice, but really it is just talk. When the opportunity presents itself to put our princibles before our corporations, we always choose our corporations (that's the American way).

Thanks,  
Richard J. Becker